

Adoxotoma Simon, 1909

Taxonomy

Adoxotoma has nine Australian species: *Adoxotoma bargo*, *A. chinopogon*, *A. embolica*, *A. hanna*, *A. justyniae*, *A. nigroolivacea*, *A. nitida*, *A. nodosa* and *A. sexmaculata*. There is a single New Zealand species, *Adoxotoma forsteri*, which is probably misplaced (Žabka, unpubl.) The genus is part of an Australasian clade (Maddison et al 2008) including *Arasia*, *Astia*, *Helpis*, *Jacksonoides*, *Megaloastia*, *Parahelpis*, *Sondra* and *Tauala*. Genera from Indonesia (*Katya*) and the Philippines (*Orthrus*) may also be part of this group (Maddison 2015). Further information on the genus and described species can be found in Žabka (2001, 2004) and Gardzińska, & Žabka (2010), Richardson and Žabka (2017) and Whyte and Anderson (2017).

Description

Adoxotoma spp. are small to medium-sized spiders, ranging in body size from 3 to 6mm. The carapace is very high, rising to a peak at the posterior lateral eyes, gently sloping to the rear. The upper surface of the male's cephalothorax can present a frosted appearance. The male has a rounded abdomen with a large, distinct scutum not present in the female. Chelicerae in both males and females may have a single retromarginal tooth with one, two, three or more cusps (unident or fissident) or two or more teeth (plurident) and one or two teeth opposite on the promargin. The male's maxilla has an antero-lateral process in some species. The first pair of legs is much stronger than the others, with many pairs of long, strong spines on the tibia and tarsus and sometimes on the patella.

The male's palp has a rather massive, dagger-like embolus, nearly always curved in a clockwise direction (from promargin towards retromargin). The embolus and associated sclerite is bifurcate in some species. The tegulum has one or more large protuberances, varying in size between species, sometimes directed ventrally (projecting outwards from the face of the palp) other times at the proximal base of the tegulum directed either right or left. The tegulum covers most of the ventral face of the palpal organ. The palpal tibia is short, usually with a hooked retro-lateral tibial apophysis and other processes.

The female's epigyne varies in form between species. There is a single, median, variously-sized atrium with the insemination ducts opening on the edges. The ducts travel posteriorly to join the anterior edges of kidney-shaped spermathecae. These are located close to the epigastric fold, which includes a small median pouch.

Biology

Adoxotoma is found in rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest and arid regions, on the ground, in leaf litter or under stones and rocks. Many species are dark with flecks of white, especially on the carapace. They may not be ant mimics as such, but are somewhat ant-like in appearance.

Distribution

In Australia, *Adoxotoma* is found in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia.

References

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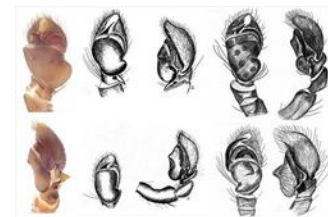


Examples of live *Adoxotoma*
Illustrator (and ©) G. Anderson



Aspects of the general morphology of
Adoxotoma

Illustrators (and ©) B.J. Richardson (CSIRO),
M. Zabka (QMB)



Palp morphology of *Adoxotoma*

Illustrators (and ©) B.J. Richardson (CSIRO),
M. Zabka (diag.) (WAMP)



Epigyne morphology of *Adoxotoma*

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M. Zabka (diag.) (WAMP)

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* The information sheet should be interpreted in the context of the associated diagrams and photographs. Diagrams explaining anatomical terms can be found in the 'Salticidae' pictures at the beginning of the list of genera.